

MEMO

TO: Executive Agency Directors
Dr. Richard Thompson, State Department of Education
Dr. Olon Ray, State Board for Community and Junior Colleges
Dr. Thomas Layzell, Institutions of Higher Learning
Marie Antoon, Mississippi Authority for Educational Television

FROM: Kelly Riley, Policy Liaison

DATE: October 16, 2001

SUBJECT: Model programs for Southern Growth Policies Board's "Southern Innovators' Fair"

The Southern Growth Policies Board (SGPB) has requested the Office of the Governor's assistance in identifying model programs in our state that can be highlighted in SGPB's fifth annual "Southern Innovators' Fair," which will be held in conjunction with SGPB's annual conference in Hilton Head, South Carolina, June 9-11, 2002.

This year the Fair will highlight the South's best practices in workforce development. States will have the opportunity to showcase their most successful efforts to improve education and training, as well as efforts aimed at recovering pockets of under-utilized or at-risk human capital. Examples of topics that SGPB would like to see covered include:

- Training for new workers
- Training for existing workers
- Job readiness
- Learning readiness
- Team counseling and coordinated interventions for troubled youth
- Job ladders
- "1st generation" college enrollments

Winning public and nonprofit programs will be provided a complimentary booth space and one conference registration, and may participate in the entire program. Winners will be responsible for their own transportation and lodging, as well as any telecommunications usage costs related to their displays.

The Fair can accommodate at least two programs from each state. Innovators will be selected based on five criteria: originality of project, state representation, innovative funding arrangements, sustainability of their creative approaches, and economic and social impact at the state and regional level. Program selections will be made by February 15th.

The Governor's Office will submit five nominations on behalf of the State of Mississippi. Due to approaching deadlines, **we must receive your nomination(s) by Friday, November 9.** You may submit two (2) nominations from your agency. **You must provide the following information for each nomination:**

- Organization type (state government, local government, nonprofit, academia, private sector)
- Program name
- Program description (75 words or less)
- Website (if applicable)
- Contact (name, address, phone, fax and email)

Please contact me at 359-2528, or via e-mail at kriley@governor.state.ms.us, if you have any questions regarding this matter. Thank you for your assistance.